

Apple and Fruit Day 2008

October 11th 2008 saw the first Apple and Fruit Day organised by TFSW at Scolton Manor near Haverfor-west. A number of stallholders braved the torrential rain to offer a range of fruit trees and other plants, and apple related items.. Sheepwalk Horticultural Services, who supply the trees for the TFSW orchard project at Scolton Manor, had a number of interesting old varieties of apple for sale, all of which do well in the wet West Wales climate. Springfield nurseries brought a range of bulbs for sale and Ty Rhos had a range of fruit trees and general plants.



Photo John Rattenbury

In the visitor centre were the Apple Identification and Fruit query desks, the latter manned by Gerald White. The number of apples presented for identification meant that at times Gerald had to be pressed into service as an apple identifier.



Photo Vicki Moller



Photo Vicki Moller

At the Apple Identification desk Steve and Lesley Jones were kept busy throughout the day with apples brought in by the public. A number of varieties were presented from old and threatened orchards which the society hopes to obtain graft wood from over the winter months to try to preserve the varieties. Some Apples were found which did not fit known varieties and these have been marked for further investigation and grafting.



Photo Vicki Moller

A large number of photos of apples identified in West Wales by Gerald White were displayed for people to peruse. This display proved very popular. Membership forms were available and a number of people discussed joining the society.

Along with the apple varieties display, posters about the medicinal uses of apples through the ages, and modern research on the effects of the flavinoids found in Apples were displayed. These created a lot of interest and a number of people requested copies of these posters.



Photo Steve Jones



TFSW member Diana Forrow had made a beautiful apple cake which was the subject of a “guess the weight” competition. John Dixon was kept busy all day taking entries for the competition. The weight of the cake was 10lb 4oz. It was won by Mrs Jones of Haverfordwest who guessed the weight exactly.

Photo Steve Jones



On the TFSW outdoor stand there were games with an apple theme. John and Penny Hooton, Chris Guest, John and Ruth Rattenbury, Richard and Linda Weeks and Colin Holness organised apple bobbing, dry and wet, (or wet and wetter!), a longest peel competition and a “guess the number of apples in the box”. Eric Nichols and David Darrel organised the parking.



In the foyer of the Visitor centre Robert Dickie was producing Apple juice using a hand turned juicer. The resulting juice was absolutely delicious, and many visitors enjoyed free samples. Most visitors were fascinated by the procedure.



John Rattenbury was the event organiser and site manager on the day. Along with Ruth he also ran a stall at the event! He had a busy day and spent most of it in the rain. His efforts paid off and despite the poor weather the event was a success. Well done John, and thanks from us all.

TFSW would also like to extend thanks to every one who worked to make the day such a success, especially Dai Williams, Warden of Scolton Manor.

We hope the 2009 event will be even better, and hopefully blessed by kinder weather.